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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER, 1983 83-7

THE STATE OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN ONTARIO

This month's meeting at the museum will sink to new depths as Ms. Scarlett Janusas presents a bubbly talk concerning recent developments in local underwater archaeology. Scarlett has been actively involved in a wide variety of projects over the last several years, so the presentation will be both well illustrated and interesting.

Meeting time is 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 13. See you there!

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

President Paul Lennox met with Rob, Linda and George on September 20 in London to discuss our fall season activities. A list of potential speakers was drawn up, and it was decided that the Chapter labs will begin again on October 20 (more of this later) - they even agreed to schedule the Christmas party for December! The Southwestern Ontario Point Typology poster was accepted in principal as a fund raising initiative. All we require is the fluted point definitions promised by our "PalaeoIndian" Chapter member! Social activities including a car pool to this month's O.A.S. Symposium in Toronto and a Chapter flint-knapping workshop were also considered. Finally, the present KEWA production crisis was addressed through a decision to pay former MCC secretary Kelly Edwards to type our number 6 and 7 manuscripts. (For those readers unaware of our recent newsletter production difficulties, you should be aware that the provincial government in its wisdom has seen fit to leave the regional archaeology office without a secretary for the last month - so, please bear with the delay).

SOCIAL REPORT

Jim Keron is preparing for a weekend excavation at the Harrietsville Earthwork on October 15 and 16. His objectives are improved artifact samples from two village middens, as well as delineation of the northern ditch alignment. Several university student groups will be attending and those local Chapter members interested in participating are encouraged to contact Jim at home (285-2379) after six or at work (673-6188) during the day.

The enclosed flyer provides details regarding this year's Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium. As it is being held in Toronto on this its tenth year, a good London Chapter turn-out is expected. Those interested in organizing a carpool should contact Paul Lennox at 438-9595 during the day. Another transportation option is Via Rail:

Leave London	Arrive Toronto
6:30 A.M.	8:30 A.M. (Plenty of time to arrive at the Downtown Holiday Inn by 9:00 A.M.)

Leave Toronto

7:30 P.M., 8:45 P.M., 11:15 P.M. (and there's always the next morning!).

A round trip ticket will cost you $20.00.

The first fall season Chapter lab will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 20 at the Ministry offices (55 Centre Street). Our first evening will be spent in producing back-issue copies of KEWA for sale at the O.A.S. Symposium (see the October Arch Notes issue). Additional support for this Chapter fund raising activity will be required at the symposium in Toronto. Those interested in taking a shift at the KEWA sales desk are requested to contact Paul at 438-9595

FALL MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, November 5	*New Experiments upon the Record of Eastern Palaeo-Indian Culture* E.S.A.F. Salem, Massachusetts.
Saturday, November 12	Michigan Archaeological Society *Fall Workshop* Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Sunday, November 13	*Conference on Michigan and Ontario Pre-History* M.A.S. Pontiac, Michigan

This month's article provides new information concerning the Middle Woodland Saugeen occupation of Southwestern Ontario and is dedicated to Mike and Rob:

THE WYOMING RAPIDS SAUGEEN COMPONENT: 1983 INVESTIGATIONS

IAN KENYON AND WILLIAM A. FOX

INTRODUCTION

The Wyoming Rapids campsite (AgHk-4), located on the Ausable River, was reported to the Ministry in the spring of 1978 by Brian Deller and tested that summer by a crew under the direction of Ian Kenyon (1979:1). At that time, three separate cultural strata representing Late, Middle and Early Woodland occupations were located along an eroding river bank at depths from roughly one to two meters from the modern ground surface.

Important information regarding changing subsistence activities over time was recovered, particularly from the Middle and Early Woodland layers. Of particular interest was the single component Early Woodland stratum which produced a radiocarbon date of 530+85 B.C. (Kenyon, 1979:13) arguing strongly for the existence of a discrete, identifiable Early Woodland, as opposed to

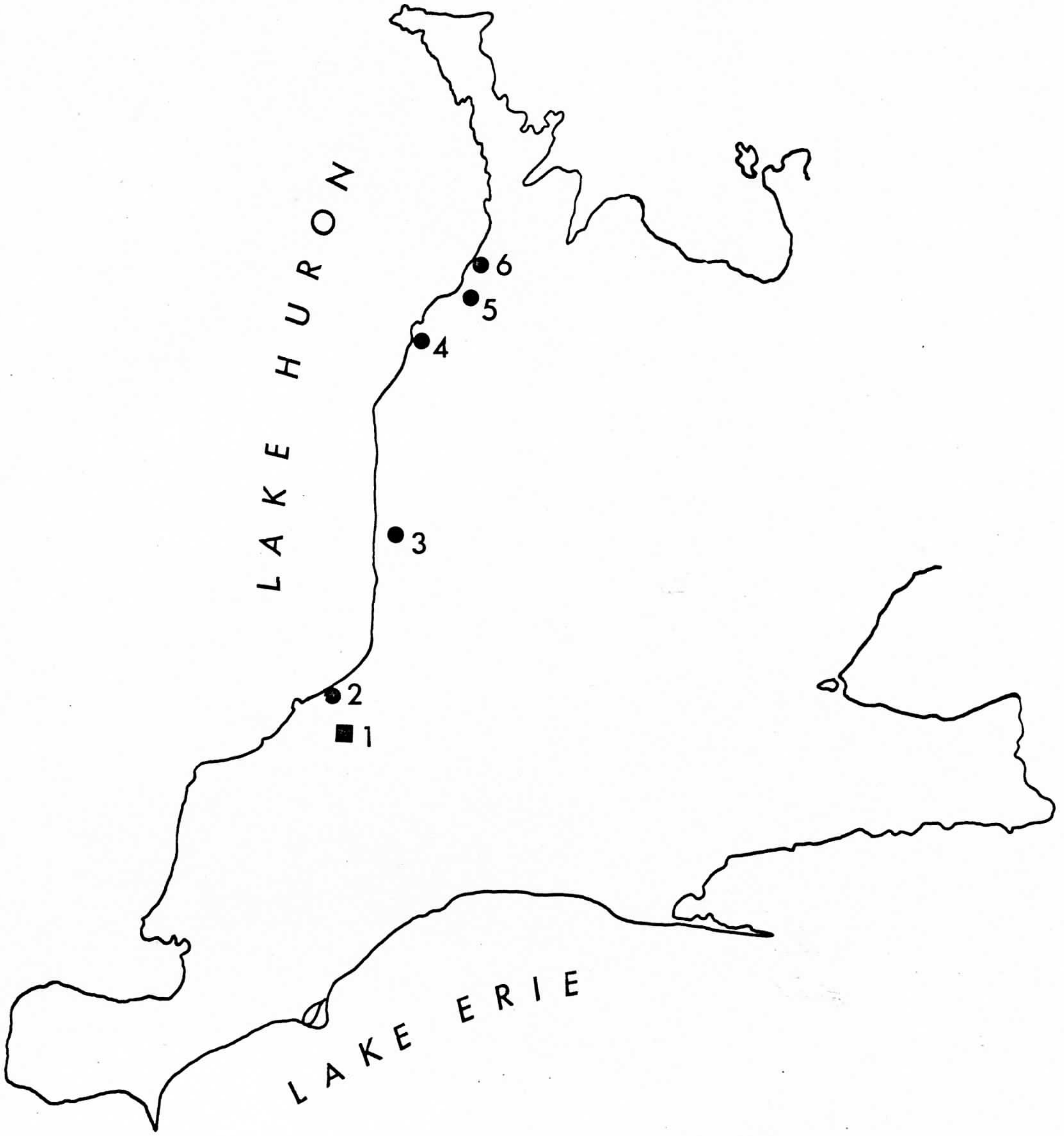

Figure 1: Site Locations.
1,Wyoming Rapids: 2,Burley; 3,Benmiller-Williams; 4,Inverhuron (Ferris); 5,Thede; 6,Donaldson.

Middle Woodland cultural manifestation in Southwestern Ontario. Ceramic attributes suggested closer ties with New York than adjacent Early Woodland groups in Michigan or Ohio. Cooper's (1982) faunal analysis identifies only white-tailed deer from the basal Early Woodland stratum, which when combined with the recovery of charred walnut shell suggests that this small camp related to fall nut gathering/deer hunting activities.

The 1978 excavations failed to recover enough carbonized wood from the Middle Woodland stratum to allow radiocarbon dating. Further, no analysis of the abundant fish bone characterizing this occupation had been accomplished; although white-tailed deer and Blanding's turtle had been identified among the faunal sample studied by Cooper (1982:18). These information gaps regarding the Middle Woodland occupation encouraged us to return to the Wyoming Rapids site this year to undertake further limited excavations.

THE 1983 FIELD WORK

Wyoming Rapids was visited on March 11, 1983 by a gang of four: Leah Buck, Neal Ferris, Ian Kenyon, and Dave Riddell. Three eroding cultural deposits were located along the banks of the Ausable river. By means of a surveyor's transit, these three areas were tied horizontally and vertically to the 1978 datum. The three areas explored in 1983 are referred to below as units 83:1, 83:2, and 83:3 (the "83" prefix serves to distinguish them from the 5 units dug in 1978).

Unit 83:1 was located near the centre of unit 78:4. No artifacts were recovered but the soil zonation observed in 1978 was confirmed.

Unit 83:2 was at the extreme northwestern end of unit 78:4. A 31 litre soil sample was collected from the Middle Woodland level and subsequently floated. Ceramic sherds from two vessels (I & J below) were recovered. The flotation sample yielded a 14g of charcoal for radiocarbon dating.

Unit 83:3 was 6 metres southeast of unit 78:5, and 12 metres northwest of unit 83:2. A 28 litre soil sample was collected from the Middle Woodland level. Artifacts included 50+ sherds from a Saugeen vessel (H below) and numerous chert flakes. The flotation sample produced 1321 faunal specimens which have been analysed by Rosemary Prevec (1983).

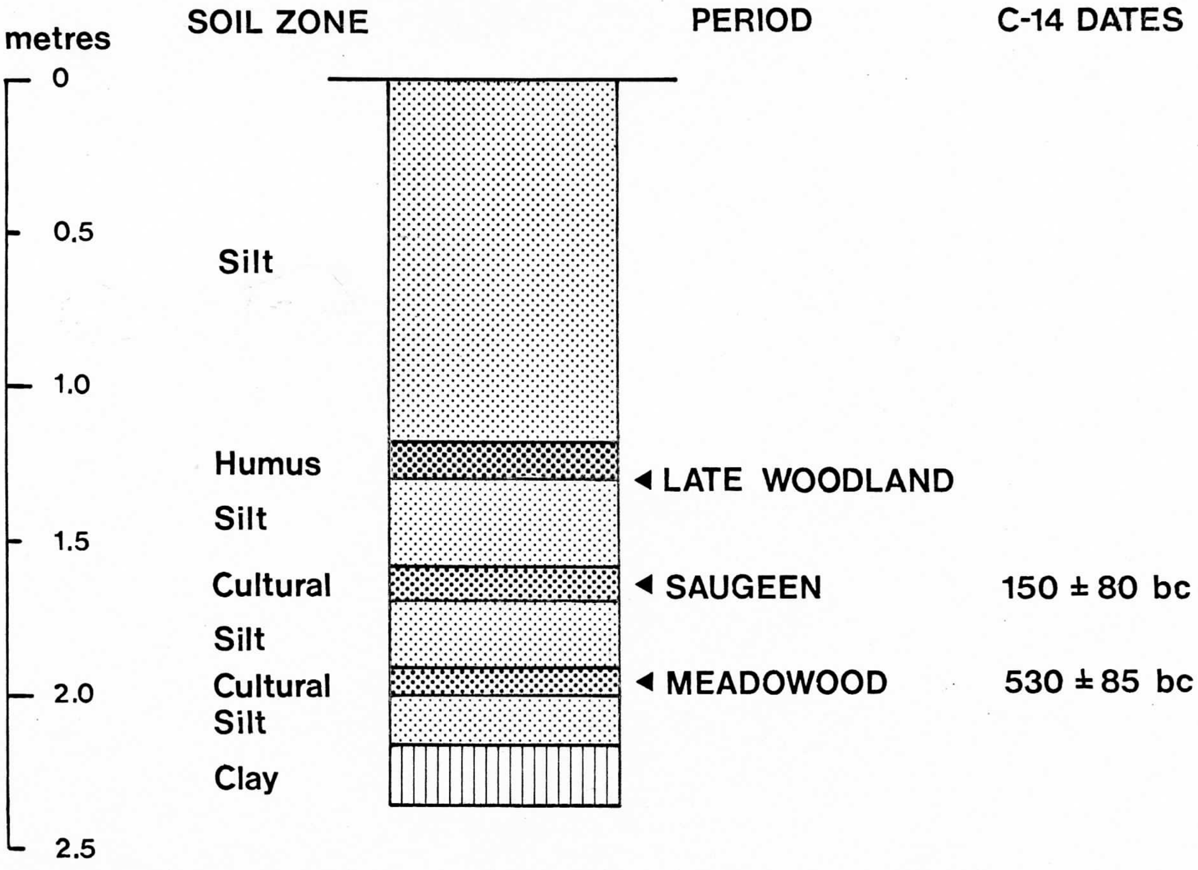

Figure 2: Diagrammatic Profile of the Wyoming Rapids Site.

STRATIGRAPHY

The "layer cake" stratigraphy of Wyoming Rapids has been formally described in the 1979 report; the new information gained in 1983 amplifies but does not substantially change the zonation established in the earlier study (see Figure 2). A summary of the stratigraphy based on the 1978 and 1983 field work is given below.

There are three basic natural soil zones that are continuous over the site. The uppermost zone consists of 80 to 130cm of culturally sterile silt, a by-product of the extensive erosion and flooding created by European land clearance in the last 150 years. Below is a meter thick layer of silt deposited in pre-European times, it is this zone that contains the cultural material; and at the base of the site there is a stratum of sticky clay, presumably deposited by one of the glacial lakes which once covered the lower Ausable valley.

At the very top of the middle or culture-bearing zone is a 10 to 25cm thick layer of black silt loam, flecked white with land snails, which likely represents an early 19th century humus horizon buried by the almost catastrophic flooding of the European period. Buried humus horizons, such as the one at Wyoming Rapids, are a conspicuous feature of many flood plain deposits in southwestern Ontario. The weakly represented Late Woodland material was found at the base of this buried humus horizon.

Separated by about 20 to 30cm of silt from the buried humus is the Middle Woodland or Saugeen cultural zone. This deposit ranges from 5 to 20cm in thickness, and it is somewhat darker than the adjacent silt layers. The most notable feature of this zone is its abundance of fish bone; for example, a 28 litre soil sample taken from unit 83:3 produced 1321 identifiable bones, all but 4 of them fish (Prevec, 1983). This "fish bone" horizon, and its associated Saugeen pottery, can be traced for about 100 metres along the bank of the site. The Saugeen component is the most extensive and richest cultural zone at Wyoming Rapids. A 31 litre soil sample from the "fish bone" horizon collected in 1983 (unit 83:2) produced 14g of wood charcoal, which yielded a radiocarbon date of 2100±80 B.P. or 150 B.C. (I-13,163).

The 1978 excavation revealed a localized 5cm thick Early Woodland deposit separated from the overlying Saugeen horizon by 20cm of silt. Rim and body sherds from a Vinette I vessel (Kenyon, 1978:5) were associated with an 11.5g sample of wood charcoal providing a radiocarbon date of 2480±85 B.P. or 530 B.C. (I-10,651).

CERAMICS

Sherds from a minimum of three different vessels were recovered in 1983. These will be termed H, I and J in order to be consistent with the designations in the 1979 report in which 7 vessels (A-G) were described and illustrated.

Vessel H (Figure 3)

The Middle Woodland horizon of unit 83:3 yielded a partially reconstructable section of a Saugeen vessel. The vessel is decorated on its exterior, lip and interior with impressions made by a coarsely toothed pseudo-scallop shell tool;

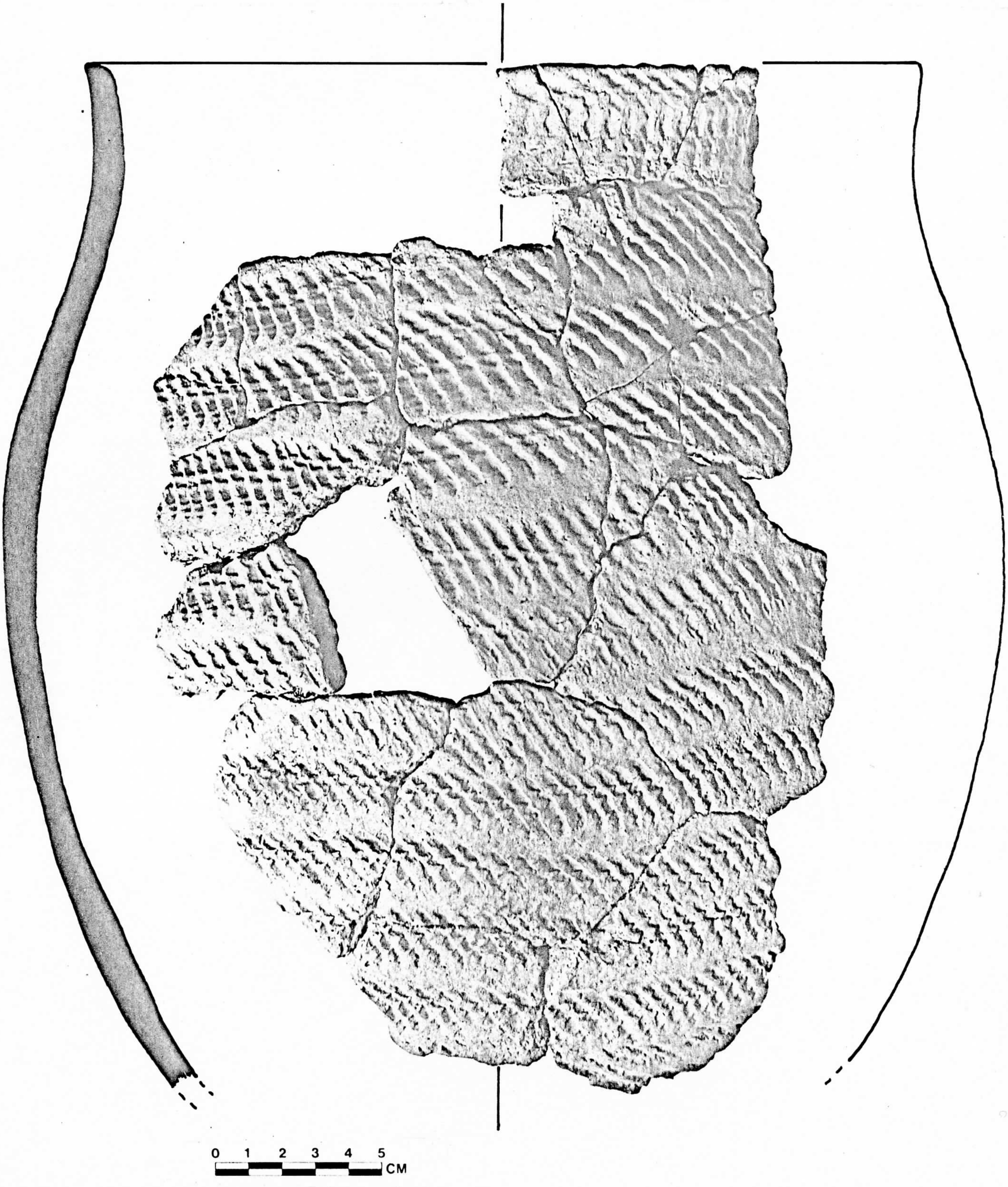

Figure 3: Saugeen Vessel Section (Vessel H)

all of the stamping was executed by the same implement. Typically these impressions are 24 to 26mm long and 4mm wide. The tool has 6 irregularly spaced teeth on one side and only 2 on the other. The upper rim interior is decorated with a single left sloping horizontal band of these impressions; one end of the tool is used to stamp the lip with transversally placed impressions. The vessel's exterior is decorated with 13+ horizontal bands of oblique stamping, all but the second are left sloping. As the illustration shows, these bands are not perfectly horizontal but are irregularly wavy. Between about 30 and 55mm below the lip, there is a single band of left sloping, sloppily executed, 2mm wide, trailed obliques. These lines are rather shallow, and hence are not very clear in the accompanying photograph.

The vessel has an estimated rim diameter of 25cm; the neck is very slightly constricted and the point of maximum width is about 1/3 of the way down the vessel. The base is missing, but it would have had a conical or sub-conical form. The vessel has a slightly everted rim, the lip sloping slightly inwards. The lip is rounded but in some places it is flattened owing to the mode of decoration. The wall of the vessel ranges from 7mm to 13mm in thickness; the thickest points occur at the shoulder and near the base. The tempering is coarse, inclusions 3mm to 5mm being common. Some coil breaks are evident.

Vessel I

This vessel is represented only by some large shoulder/upper body sherds from the Middle Woodland level in unit 83:2. This vessel is decorated by multiple horizontal bands of left sloping dentate stamps. The impressions are coarsely toothed and measure 25mm by 3mm, although the poorly represented neck area appears to have dentating made with a more finely toothed implement. The vessel wall varies from 8 to 12mm in thickness. The temper is similar to vessel H. This vessel was associated with the 150 B.C. radiocarbon date.

Vessel J

The last vessel to be described here is represented by a single rim sherd, a surface find from the vicinity of unit 83:2. It, of course, cannot be ascribed directly to any of the stratigraphic horizons, but the vessel is clearly of Late Woodland manufacture. The 1978 work revealed a thin Late Woodland occupation at the base of the buried humus horizon. Unfortunately, at that time no diagnostic rim sherds were found, so the specific Late Woodland culture could not be determined. The rim found in 1983, then, provides the first good clue to the identity of the late occupation at Wyoming Rapids.

The vessel has a flattened, somewhat everted lip, which is 7mm thick. The neck varies from 7 to 8mm in thickness. The vessel's exterior is cord-marked up to the lip. The interior and lip are decorated with single rows of right sloping linear impressions. Aside from the cord-marking the exterior is otherwise undecorated.

Although this vessel has a generic similarity to some of the more simply decorated Princess Point and Glen Meyer rim sherds, it would seem to be most closely related to the Wayne Ware pottery of Michigan (Brashler, 1981).

LITHICS

The unit 83:2 soil sample yielded 6 pieces of Kettle Point chert debitage weighing a total of 0.49. These appear to represent biface re-sharpening activities. While the main unit 83:3 soil sample produced no chert debitage whatsoever, a bag sample from a debitage concentration in the same unit contained 387 pieces of Kettle Point chert weighing a total of 180.3g. This debitage may represent some biface thinning, but relates mostly to primary reduction of what were probably small block cores or, perhaps, crude biface blanks.

No lithic tools are present in the 1983 collection.

FAUNAL MATERIAL

Prevec (1983) has identified 1321 bones from unit 83:3 (see Table 1). Prevec observes:

> The faunal collection from [unit 83:3] is composed almost entirely of fish bones from the Catostomus genus. They would belong to either the white sucker or the longnose sucker. All of the sucker bones were very large and dwarfed the reference collection bones, which were obtained from fish weighing approximately 1½ to 2 pounds. At least 18 individuals are represented, using left maxillae as the determining elements. Suckers are most easily caught in the early spring when they move up rivers to spawn. It is also easiest to catch walleye during their early spring spawning. White-tailed deer is available year round, while chipmunks are most active from spring through fall. The one chipmunk element may be intrusive. (Prevec, 1983:1)

Table 1: FAUNAL ANALYSIS OF UNIT 83:3

SPECIES LIST	NO. OF ELEMENTS
Sucker species *Catostomus* sp.	1309
Yellow Walleye *Stizostedion vitreum* (Mitchill)	6
Chipmunk *Tamias striatus* (Linnaeus)	1
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* (Boddaert)	2
Mammal sp.	1
Fish sp.	2
TOTAL ELEMENTS	1321

CONCLUSIONS

Our efforts at Wyoming Rapids have been quite modest, yet the site has produced some important evidence concerning Initial Woodland chronology and settlement patterns.

The faunal analyses by Cooper (1982) and Prevec (1983) highlight some of the differences between the Early and Middle Woodland occupations at Wyoming Rapids. The Meadowood component is small, with an emphasis on deer hunting; it would appear to be a fall hunting/nut gathering camp. In contrast, the Middle Woodland or Saugeen component is much more extensive, with a clear emphasis on the procurement of spring spawning fish, especially sucker. The size of this component, its location by a rapids and the quantity of fish bone, all suggest that Wyoming Rapids is a "spring-early summer macroband settlement", to use Finlayson's (1977) terminology. Indeed, Finlayson's characterization of the Saugeen seasonal round into two settlement types fits the Ausable valley data extremely well. Wyoming Rapids may be the Ausable counterpart of the Donaldson site, while the small, numerous components near the Huron shore, such as Burley, may represent his "late summer-fall microband settlements".

The chronology of the Saugeen culture rests largely on the radiocarbon dates from the Donaldson (5 dates) and the Thede (5 dates) sites, both on the Saugeen River (Finlayson, 1977). There is also a single carbon date from the Burley site, which is located near the mouth of the Ausable River 15km northwest of Wyoming Rapids. From this series of 11 dates, Finlayson (1977) has proposed that the Saugeen culture dates between 700-500 B.C. and A.D. 600-800. The earliest date in this series is a 669+220 B.C. solid carbon date from the Saugeen component at Burley; however, the evidence from Wyoming Rapids demonstrates that the central or mean reading of 669 B.C. for Burley is unacceptable. The stratigraphy at Wyoming Rapids clearly shows that in the Ausable valley there is a distinct and identifiable Early Woodland (Meadowood) occupation at c.500 B.C. succeeded at some later date, perhaps before 200-100 B.C., by the Saugeen culture.

But should the Ausable valley chronology be applied to the Saugeen valley, from which much of the previous dating evidence has derived? The Donaldson and Thede sites lie some 140km to the north of the Ausable and they are in a different biotic province: there is no guarantee that the chronology derived for one river valley will be exactly replicated in another. Without further evidence it would be premature to apply the Ausable dating to these northern sites, as it was premature to do the reverse.

There are two early dates for Donaldson, 530+60 B.C. and 585+150 B.C. Finlayson (1977:590-593) discusses in some detail the ambiguity of these dates. Donaldson, he points out, is a site with a long occupational history. Both the pit yielding the 530 B.C. date and the hillside midden with the 585 B.C. date have produced Vinette I and classic Saugeen material. According to Finlayson the possible association between the early dates and Vinette I pottery at Donaldson raises two possible explanations: 1). "...there could have been a short but distinct Early Woodland occupation of the site...(Finlayson, 1977: 591)"; 2). "...the Saugeen occupation of the Donaldson site was contemporaneous with the Vinette I occupations in New York State and the adjacent portions of southwestern Ontario.(1977: 592)". The data from Wyoming

Rapids supports the first explanation, but, once again, confirming evidence is sorely needed from the Saugeen valley area. Perhaps, this will come from the as yet undated Ferris site at Inverhuron, which has produced diagnostic Meadowood artifacts in a location suggesting a chronological placement earlier than Saugeen.

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